

High: 32 F Low: 14 F



Saturday: High: 41 F Low: 25 F

Around the track K-State Track and Field are hosting it's first meet of the

A tough fighter Edge editor Kelsey Castanon talks with student about her life with Lupis.

A first K-State First helps guide first-year students to sucess

## Biology professor finds rhythm in music, science

Editor's Note: This is part 6 of an 8 part series about the members of the Red State Blues

The concept of a socially normal person living a double life as a music star is usually confined to imaginations and the television screen. This very concept, however, takes shape in the form of John Blair, distinguished professor of biol-

ogy.
Blair devotes his time and energy into teaching at K-State and leading the Konza Prairie long-term economic research department, but at night, he assumes his role as guitarist in the Red State Blues Band.

"I picked up my first guitar around age 12," Blair said, "And since then I just loved playing around with it. In eighth grade, I started playing in bands and groups, doing pretty typical '70s music covers, and I've always been fascinated by the science of biology and nature.'

Blair kept both of his passions close to him. Even as he ventured into college for biology, music never left his side.

I ended up selling my electric guitar and my amps for college, but I kept my acoustic guitar and played all along my undergraduate and graduate years," Blair said.

Blair attended Kent State University, and throughout his years there, became more attracted to the fields of ecology and entomology. Eventually he received his doctorate in 1987 at the University of Georgia.

"I'm an ecologist by training and that's what most people know me as," Blair said.
"I'm also very involved in researching the grasslands and life within the Konza Prairie. We have been able to fund the long-term economic research in the Konza Prairie for over 30 years."

Despite being enveloped in his passion for learning and science, music remained a strong presence in Blair's life, even popping up in surprising

"My Ph.D. adviser played the guitar and he would invite his students over to his house. We would, of course, discuss science and biology, but we would also make music together," he said.

Blair said that he has found benefits in balancing biology research and music.

"I don't think keeping up with science and music is one battling the other. Science and music have many similarities," he said. "There's a rhythm to both of them, they both involve mass amounts of creativity, and they shape how you see things in the world. I think music and science coexist nicely and even accent each other in a person's life.'

Blair never had professional musical training and cannot read music. He learns everything by ear, which he credits to being used to figuring things out methodically. Blair's place within the Red State Blues Band came along less by method, however, and more by chance.

"I'm a relatively new addition to the band, or at least one of the newest," he said. "I knew some of the other members from before, because I'd played with a few of them. When they needed a temporary fill-in for a while, I did it. I really loved the sound they had and the energy they pro-

Blair said he loves the blues and rock feel that the Red State Blues Band goes for.

"I've been to several of their performances," said David Rintoul, associate director of biology. "I like them. They have a great sound, they have fun, and it's good music.'

One wall of Blair's office is decorated with his personal and group achievements. The combination of his college degrees and pictures and post-

BAND | pg. 5 Hall.



John Blair, distinguished professor of biology and guitar player for the Red State Blues Band, stands in the stairwell to his upstairs laboratory in Bushnell

## Celtic Tenors earn two standing ovations at McCain

**Patrick White** staff writer

The room went dark as the Celtic Tenors took the stage for the program "A Celtic Tenors Christmas" in McCain Auditorium on yesterday. The vocalist group, comprised of Daryl Simpson, James Nelson and Matthew Gilsenan, all of Ireland, featured their classical music education in an innovative and genre-bending fashion.

It was their first time in Manhattan and they began by treating the audience to some Irish folk songs. In between songs, the group would take time to talk about the next number they were going to perform and, as a running joke for the night, poke fun at their pianist.

The beginning of the show had a few slow songs, but the Tenors soon got into some songs that had the audience slapping knees, clapping hands and tapping feet as the group urged those in attendance to join in.

The group finished the opening segment with a rendition of "Oh, Holy Night" followed by "Silent Night." During their performance of "Silent Night," they sang the three stanzas in English, their native Irish and the original German.

"The harmonies were amazing," said Lou Williams, associate professor of history. "Feels like Home' was my favorite of the bunch. I had heard some of their work on TV, but I only watched a little so I didn't spoil the show for myself."

Many of the pieces the group performed not only went across genres, like their reworked version of Eric Clapton's "Lay Down Sally," but also



Photo courtesy of WikiMedia Commons

spanned multiple languages, such as Gaudete," a medieval hymn entirely

"I enjoyed it very much," said Jerry Weis, former K-State faculty member. "I've been looking

forward to the show since I heard they were coming. They have a good mix of music, so it was very

enjoyable." When the Celtic Tenors came back intermission, they led off with "The Holy City." They fol-

lowed up with some more religious themed works, and a few personal tidbits on growing up in country that has two religions. Ireland is both

Protestant and Catholic.

Later on, during a performance of "Spanish Lady," the audience was treated to the group's river dancing abilities. In the middle of that, singer

Daryl Simpson did his version of the moonwalk, which was met with great enthusiasm from the

"It was great," said Steve Scofield, Man-Lou Williams hattan resident. "I'm history professor glad we didn't miss it. A couple of the numbers were worth

the price of the tickets by themselves

Scofield was not the only resident of Manhattan who shared these senti-

"I loved it," said Jennifer Shakespeare, Manhattan resident. "This was the first time I've seen them perform. I really didn't know what to expect, but it was really fun."

Before one of their pieces, the Tenors stopped to relate a band story behind one of the songs they were about to perform. The story follows that they had done a tour of Canada and were set to leave from the airport in Regina, Saskatchewan. However, a blizzard had struck, leaving them and other passengers stranded for the night. At the request to sing, they chose "You Ain't Going Nowhere" by Bob Dylan. This tied into some of the ways they have come to incorporate

CELTIC | pg. 5

### K-State a capella group uses singing to entertain

Jakki Thompson

As a dozen men enter McCain 102, one may feel a vibe that these students are a different type of singing group than others on campus.

None of these men are in a music major program. None of these men look like singers. Their commonality is a deep-rooted passion for singing. These are the men of Cadence.

"Our purpose is to represent K-State and show people what a fun group of guys K-State has," said Alex Gonzolas, junior in kinesiology. "We are just a group of guys who like to sing.

Cadence is an all men's a capella group at K-State. They are not run through the music department and their adviser is not a music teacher. Originally formed in 1988, Cadence was assembled as a side project from the Men's Glee Club on campus. A couple of years ago, Cadence completely broke off from Men's Glee Club and became its own entity.

"We are an entertainment group," said Zach Nelson, president of Cadence and senior in business marketing. "We mold and fit our group and our audience. When we go to shows and gigs, we ask our audience and/or clients what they want of us."

There are currently 12 members in Cadence, including a soloist and a beat boxer.

"We just think this is really cool," said Andrew Witter, music manager of Cadence and senior in

CADENCE | pg. 6

### Roadside bomb claims life of Ft. Riley soldier in Afghanistan

Karen Ingram

A Fort Riley soldier died from injuries sustained from an improvised explosive device on Dec. 3.

Sgt. David Sharp, 28, was on dismounted patrol in southern Afghanistan when a roadside bomb exploded near him. Sharp was sent to a hospital in Landstuhl, Germany, where he later died of his injuries. His parents were able to visit him in the hospital before he died, although he never regained consciousness.

Sharp was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment, 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, currently deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. This was his third deployment. According to an article in the Idaho Statesman, Sharp was due to leave the Army in about six months.

Sharp, originally from Idaho Falls, Idaho, joined the Army in October 2002 after graduating from Skyline High School. He came to Fort Riley in April 2006. His awards include the Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Army Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster and the Combat Action Badge. Sharp is survived by his parents,

two brothers, two sisters and two daughters, ages 6 and 8.



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12-8 **CRYPTOQUIP** 

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Karen Ingram

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#### CORRECTIONS

If you see something that should be corrected or clarified, please call managing editor Caroline Sweeney at 785-532-6556 or email news@spub.ksu.edu.



The Kansas State Collegian, a student newspaper at Kansas State University, is published by Student Publications, Inc. It is published weekdays during the school year and on Wednesdays during the summer. Periodical postage is paid at Manhattan, KS. POSTMAS-TER: Send address changes to Kedzie 103, Manhattan, KS 66506-7167. First copy free, additional copies 25 cents. [USPS 291 020] © Kansas State Collegian, 2011 All weather information courtesy of the National Weather Service. For up-to-date forecasts, visit nws.noaa.aov.

#### **LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

### Wednesday comic strip 'culturally insensitive'

I found the comic in Wednesday's paper culturally insensitive and distasteful. I understand that it is beneficial to critique different belief systems, and personally try to encourage it. However, in a newspaper comic strip, it is unacceptable and makes our paper, and in turn our school, look ignorant.

To openly mock a worldview of any persuasion, be it Islam, Shamanism, Christianity, Paganism, Hinduism, atheism or whatever else, reflects a narrow-minded, arrogant and uneducated opinion that seems to be desperately seeking a sense of superiority that it clearly has not earned.

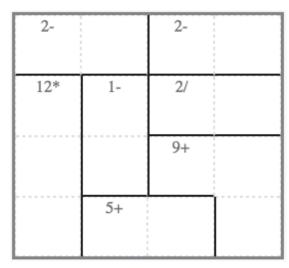
It would be in the best interest of the paper and the student body if the editors would more carefully consider the content of the paper, and the message this content is sending to its readers about our student body and quality of our education.

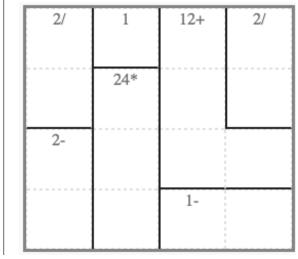
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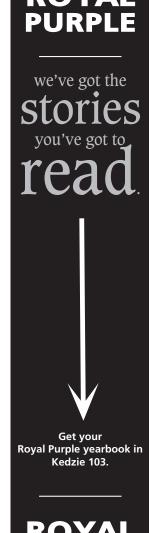
**Amy Reazin** senior in anthropology

### KenKen | Medium

Use numbers 1-4 in each row and column without repeating. The numbers in each outlined area must combine to produce the target number in each area using the mathematical operation indicated.











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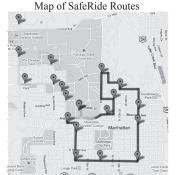




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## Brittany Chambers scores 1,000th career point in final seconds of 60-34 victory against Shockers



Photos by Lauren Gocken | Collegian

Above: Tasha Dickey, senior guard, rushes in and blocks a Shocker guard in Bramlage Coliseum on Dec. 7

Right: Brittany Chambers, junior guard, jumps for a basket during the same Wichita State game. The Wildcats won 60-34.

Kelly McHugh

Yesterday, the K-State women's basketball team took the court against the Wichita State Shockers, and, with a final score of 60-34, the Wildcats left the court with another home win for their last home game of 2011.

The game held a lot of ups and downs for the Wildcats, but with new players on the court and a milestone shot for Brittany Chambers, junior guard and co-captain, it turned out to be an exciting evening of basketball.

In the final minute of the game, Chambers received a pass from senior forward Branshea Brown, and sunk a 3-pointer which gave her 1,000 career points, which she credited to her teammates.

"It's a great honor," Chambers said after the game. "I attribute that to my teammates completely. Players like Brandy, Mariah, Jalana, it's great to play with them and it's been amazing, they really, really get me open and set me up for a lot of shots I wouldn't have without them."

Despite this career high for Chambers, the game was slow on the offense for K-State. While Chambers appeared strong, putting the first points on the board, the Wildcats continued to miss shot after shot and they kept the score close, even tied on occasion.

Even though Wichita State's team was noticeably smaller in player size, they came out firing. K-State was able to win rebounds and hold a strong defense to keep the Shockers from a

high scoring percentage.

Halfway through the first half, the Wildcats caught fire and the lead began to grow with every shot they

took. They held the defensive end of the floor with composure and intensity. With six minutes remaining, the game was no longer close and K-State held a ten point lead over Wichita State.

It was this change of momentum for K-State that led them to close the first half leading the Shockers 33-17. Chambers led the team at the half

with 9 points and two rebounds. "It was a little iffy," coach Deb Patterson said about the first half. "I didn't feel as though we really came out with a sustained punch at the beginning of the game.

As the second half opened with the starting five back on the court, Wichita State, once again, came out strong. K-State's defense was on, but like a flashback to the beginning of the first half, they did not start out connecting their shots from the field.

fresh legs did not

their defense. tonight." "I thought deensively our bench head women's came in and combasketball coach peted at a fairly high

level," Patterson said. "The rebounding and offensive production left a lot to be desired, but again for some of those players those are very early minutes in their career and I was glad to see them get them. The next step, again, is making them count more in the offensive end."

With seven minutes left on the

change much as they lacked success from the field and their shooting percentage dropped to 31 percent.

fought hard to keep the Wildcats from

scoring.

Their attempts were in vain, though, when in the final seconds, Chambers threw her milestone 3-pointer and the Wildcats walked away with a 60-34 win.

effort tonight and it ended up being a game, obviously, where we were able to utilize a lot of our roster," Patterson said. "Too many times tonight, we got lulled into standing and reacting late, and I think that was a factor. I want to see a higher percentage of makes in and around the rim than we got tonight."

to Las Vegas for the BTI Invitational Dec. 18-20 and then head to New York to play Marist College over the

The next time the Wildcats will be back at home in Bramlage Coliseum will be on Jan. 4, 2012, at 7 p.m., as they take on the Texas A&M Aggies during their first conference game of

### Track and field team to host event

Corbin McGuire

The K-State track and field team will host its first event of the 2011-12 season, the Carol Robinson Winter Pentathlon, on Friday in Ahearn Field House.

Junior Erik Kynard, senior Jeffrey Julmis and senior Mantas Silkauskas are all returning 2011 men's indoor All-Americans in the high jump, the 60-meter hurdles and the heptathlon respectively.

Senior Ryann Krais, a one-year let-terman, was the only women's indoor All-American last season for the team, a honor she earned in the pentathlon

Kynard and Krais both competed at the USA Outdoor Track and Field

Championships in June.

Kynard finished third in the high jump to qualify for Team USA at the International Association of Athletics Federation's World Championships and Krais was listed as an alternate to the event, which is a feat nonetheless.

Krais posted a personal best in shot put during the event and scored a personal best of 6,030 points in the heptathlon which ranks second all-time in K-State history. Krais also holds the school record for the 400-meter hurdles, which will not take place in Friday's event.

Both the women and men bring back a lot of experience from last season as the men's squad brings back 21 lettermen from last year's team and the women's team returns 20 lettermen.

The men's high jump is scheduled to start at approximately 12:45 p.m. and the heavy favorite will be for the Wildcats' Kynard to come away with first

The 6-foot-4-inch Kynard, a two-year letterman, is the NCAA's returning outdoor high jump champion and placed third in last season's indoor championship. His multiple other awards for high jump include both indoor and outdoor 2011 Big 12 Conference champion and second in the Tyson Invitational, where he jumped his personal best for the year. Kynard also holds the third highest jump in NCAA history.

The men's 60-meter hurdles is the first event scheduled to take place at approximately 10 a.m., as Julmis will look to improve upon his All-American

Julmis, a two-year letterman, finished in the top 5 in six out of seven indoor meets the Wildcats competed in last

year, including finishing third in the Big 12-SEC Challenge, first in the Husker Invitational and fifth in the NCAA Championship. Julmis will look to break the school records he has already set for the 60-meter and 110-meter hurdles For more information regarding the

event or starting times, kstatesports.com has the event information.

### Two-minute drill

Sean Frye staff writer

Personnel problems within the undefeated Green Bay Packers locker room continued on Wednesday, as linebacker Erik Walden was charged with disorderly conduct - domestic abuse, which is a misdemeanor. The charge came after an alleged fight with his girlfriend. The maximum penalty, if convicted, is 90 days in jail plus a \$1,000 fine. His attorney has entered a plea of not guilty. Last month, he was arrested on suspicion of domestic violence - substantial battery, a felony charge.

Former Penn State assistant coach Jerry Sandusky, who has been the subject of ongoing child molestation and sexual abuse charges, was arrested on Wednesday after being charged with abusing two more children who have come forward since the outset of the investigation. Sandusky was unable to immediately post a \$250,000 bail, so he was taken to a jail in Pennsylvania. If he posts bail, he will be subjected to electronic monitoring and house arrest. The latest two victims brings the official count of children accusing Sandusky of sex crimes to 10. Like previous victims, both children claim that they were introduced to Sandusky because of the Second Mile Charity, which Sandusky founded.

The Miami Marlins' shopping spree has taken an interesting turn. According to various sources on ESPN, the Marlins — formerly the Florida Marlins — have "moved on" from their pursuit of free agent first basemen Albert Pujols, who is considered to be the prize of free agency this winter. In response to moving on, the Marlins have reportedly shifted their free agency endeavors to pitching, and have offered pitcher Mark Buehrle a four-year, \$58 million deal. Buehrle, who has spent the previous 12 seasons with the Chicago White Sox, went 13-9 last year with a 3.59 ERA.

The final process in passing the new labor agreement has begun, as player representatives have started voting on the proposed deal. Owners will begin their voting process on Thursday. The National Basketball Players Association cancelled a scheduled meeting to go over the details of the agreement primarily because the consensus is that players agree to the deal, and that they would rather report to their teams to begin the early stages of training camp. The NBA season begins on Christmas Day.



With a comfortable lead, coach Patterson was able to put in players from the bench, including freshman guard Haley Texada and sophomore

guard Stephanie Wittman. While the put the points on the board, Patterson "I was pleased with our defensive effort was pleased with

clock, coach Patterson returned the starting five to the court; however, their effect on the score did not

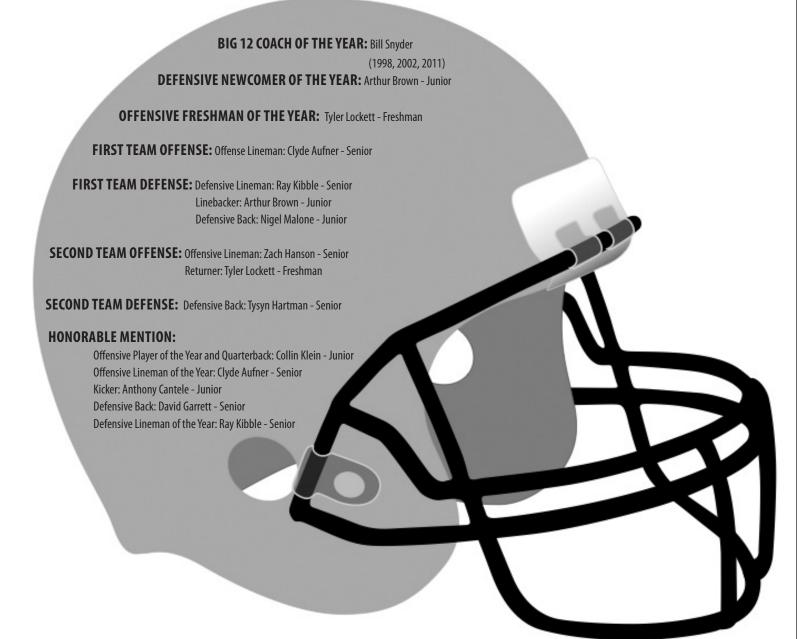
#### K-State held a 20-point lead with a minute remaining as Wichita State

"Í was pleased with our defensive

K-State will hit the road and head

the season.

# **2011 ALL BIG 12 TEAMS ANNOUCED**



kansas state collegian thursday, december 8, 2011

### Student fights lupus: 'I feel like I'm living a torturous life'

Kelsey Castanon edge editor

Lindsay Tubbs, senior in hotel and restaurant management, realizes it might look odd to others when she steps out of her handicap-parked car. She realizes that at first glance, she looks like a healthy, petite blond. But what people don't know is that Tubbs is fighting the chronic symptoms of a painful disease that makes it dif-

ficult to walk to class. The pain began in high school. Tubbs said she noticed her hair started falling out, her face swelled and she was constantly tired. She was told by her doctor to give it time and, if she did not get better in a few months, to come back. The pain only worsened, and Tubbs went back six months later.

After 15 blood tests, she received the news she so desperately wished against: she had lupus, an autoimmune disease that attacks the body's healthy tissue.

"I was scared to death," Tubbs said. "When they first started

"I always thought,

'I'll get sick, I'll go to

the hospital and they'll

make me better, or

'I'll get sick, I'll go to

the hospital and die.' And now it's neither of

those. Now it's, 'I'll get

sick and I'll just be sick

and be in pain.' And it

will be never ending.

That's a lot harder to

deal with than the idea

of dying. I feel like I'm

living a torturous life."

**Lindsay Tubbs** 

testing me, they said, 'you have arthritis but we don't know what kind it is. The worst possibility would be lupus but don't worry, you won't have that.' And then I did."

The numerous doctor visits didn't prepare Tubbs' mom, Mildred, for the diagnosis of the disease either. Tubbs Though had been sick for some time, her mom said she was in shock the day her daughter was diagnosed.

"I was in denial," she said. "I didn't want to

believe it. Even though we knew it was a possibility, you never think it will happen to you."

The diagnosis also took away previous fears Lindsay had of death. With this disease, there is no closure, no calculated result.

'I always thought, 'I'll get sick, I'll go to the hospital and they'll make me better, or, 'I'll get sick, I'll go to the hospital and die.' And now it's neither of those," Tubbs said. "Now it's, 'I'll get sick and I'll just be sick and be in pain.' And it will be never ending. That's a lot harder to deal with than the idea of dying. I feel like I'm living a torturous life."

Dr. Kevin Latinis, clinical assistant professor of immunology and rheumatology at KU Med, sees lupus every day and said the disease is quite variable in how it affects people.

Though systematic lupus comes with painful symptoms, Tubbs said she was also worried about treat-

"A lot of doctors don't have a lot of experience with it," Tubbs said. "It's not the most common disease to have."

Statistics indicate it's mostly women who experience its symptoms. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 90 percent of lupus patients are women, and 1 in 1,000 women from the ages of 14 to 45 develops the disease.

Latinis said in general, lupus affects about 1 in 5,000 people.

"It tends to be more prevalent in

big cities," Latinis said. "Typically, it affects the African-American and Hispanic population.

Though Lafene Health Center declined to comment on the number of students with lupus on K-State campus, Tubbs said she has heard there are a total of three. However, not many students understand the severity of the disease.

Emily VanWoerkom, Tubbs' friend and senior in family studies, said that before meeting her, she vaguely knew about the disease.

But I've never known anyone who was being actively affected by it," VanWoerkom said.

For the past three years, Tubbs has been in remission, meaning her blood work has been testing negative for lupus. But that doesn't mean she doesn't get symptoms.

She still sleeps 16 hours a day. She still gets pink rashes on her cheeks. It still hurts her to walk. But its also created a new spec-

trum of symptoms for her. "Lupus is the type of disease where you don't just get lupus,

but you get a lot of other diseases that go along with it," Tubbs said.

In fact, Tubbs said her pain has shifted within the past year. Instead of feeling typical lupus symptoms, such as fever, hair loss and mouth sores, her pain has moved to her joints. While she said she had never experienced arthritic problems prior to this year, she suspects it is a result of the primary disease.

senior in hotel and "My restaurant management symptoms have become com-

pletely different," she said. "It feels like my knees are broken. When I walk, I can feel the tendon snapping back; it's awful. Every single joint in my body hurts.'

Now, Tubbs has found herself revisiting a familiar frustration: not knowing what is happening to

On Nov. 16, she had a doctor's appointment to pinpoint the reasoning behind the change in symptoms. While details are still unclear, Tubbs said they suspect she is degenerative, meaning her joints are breaking down and collapsing.

discovered that it's proably a secondary disease," she said. "That's probably the worst part of it. Even though I'm in remission with lupus, I still am popping up with another disease. It's hard to

Latinis said one-third of lupus patients have fibromyalgia, which is a pain syndrome where the mus-

cles and joints hurt. "It's very difficult to treat because it's not very responsive to medicine," he said.

He also said lupus can be associated with many other arthritis diseases, such as rheumatoid arthritis and multiple sclerosis, among others.

Though Tubbs often sleeps 16 hours a day, it's being physically unable to perform daily mundane tasks on her own — such as doing laundry or driving her car — that make such a disease frustrating. On days when she is having a



Lindsay Tubbs, senior in hotel and restaurant management, poses with her mother, Mildred.

courtesy photo



**Tubbs** stands at a rally for state workers' rights to collective bargaining. Though she struggles with the symptoms of lupus, she stays involved on campus, currently serving as president of the K-State Young Democrats.

hard time, though, her friends and family are there to lend a helping

VanWoerkom said, typically, Tubbs wants to do as much as she can by herself when possible. It's only when she is hurting that she'll ask for help.

"She puts on a really good front when she's in a lot of pain," Van-Woerkom said. "But I can usually tell because she moves really

Despite daily struggles to walk and complete minor everyday tasks, Tubbs makes sure to appreciate the good days.

"I might not be able to go to class every single day of the week but I am going to go when I can," she said. "And I don't want to just give up because I have four out of seven days of the week where I'm in pain because I do have those three days."

Tubbs stays involved when she can, and recently became the president of the K-State Young Democrats. Though she does most of the work at home on her computer, she makes sure to attend each of the

monthly group meetings. Though she can't plan when the good days will happen, Tubbs said she makes sure she does what she wants. If she feels well enough, she said she enjoys going out with her friends, even if only in modera-

However, she realizes that if she stays out too late or does "stupid things," her body will reap the consequences in days following.

Unlike most college students, I really have to think about what I'm doing no matter how well I feel because it will impact me later," she said.

Nonetheless, said Tubbs is a fun, energetic individual who always manages to put on a happy face. Her ability to remain optimistic despite the circumstances is one of the things her mom said she is most proud of.

"It's hard for me to watch her go through so much pain and no one know about it or understand it," VanWoerkom said. "She's such a strong person."

While Tubbs realizes she resembles other students on campus, her situation is unique. She wants to reach out to those who don't understand her disease, with the hopes that they aren't so quick to judge next timé.

"People do not understand I'm sick. I get out of my car and I look like anybody else," Tubbs said. "Nobody realizes that if I walk 30 extra steps, I won't be able to go to class the next day. People are just blind and somebody needs to say something."

## Acclaimed Kansas filmmaker makes name for himself in business, sticks to Wamego roots

**Haley Rose** 

contributing writer

Editor's Note: This article was completed as an assignment for a class in the A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communi-

Even though local filmmaker and director Steve Balderson has eight professional films under his belt, a whopping 20 film award nominations — nine of which he won — and an array of international praise, he has yet to find a reason to leave Kansas.

His films have earned awards, including Best Director, Best Cinematography, Best Picture and Best Editing at independent film festivals like Raindance and Visionfest. Not to mention the additional honors credited to his films including best actor and actress awards.

Acclaim for his films include reviews from movie critics like MJ Simpson, who called Balderson's most recent film, "The Casserole Club," "Magnificent, another tour-de-force by the best kept secret in American cinema.'

His 2005 film, "Firecracker," was given a Special Jury Award by movie critic Roger Ebert on his annual Best Films report.

After living in California for three years while studying at the California Institute for the Arts, Balderson stuck to his Kansas roots and moved back to Wamego, where he runs his office and partners a graphic design/marketing business.

"I like living here because I can live well here," he said. "It's peaceful. If I lived in LA or New York my life would be exactly the same, it would just cost more ... And I can shut down the street and film there without anybody really caring."

Balderson has filmed in locations like Manhattan, Wamego, Georgia, Palm Springs, Calif., and most recently, London and Paris for his newest project, "Culture Shock," which is now in the post-production phase.

"It was interesting, because we didn't really get permission to shoot anywhere," he said. "It's pretty rare to get away with filming on the street. It's actually illegal to film in the Underground, but we were taking it from location to location, and we had actors in costume, so we figured, why not shoot stuff? And we did and got away with it."

In his movies, Balderson works with an array of people from all corners of the film industry. His casting technique ranges from sending out a manifesto - where actors can read about his directing style and then choose to contact him about working - to seeking out up-and-coming actors or using local talent.

Actors he has worked with in the past are Oscar nominee and Golden Globe winner Karen

Black as well as Susan Traylor, wife of Bob Dylan's son Jessé.

post-production Average turnaround time for Balderson's films is around four months. For his last three films, once he has done basic editing like color correction, he sends the film to Los Angeles to composer Rob Kleiner for scoring.
"I was a fan of Steve's films,

and then started working together after we were introduced through a mutual friend a few years ago," Kleiner said. "As long as he likes what I do, I would definitely take up any movie he sends my way."

Kleiner was recently nominated for a Grammy Award for a song he collaborated on with Cee Lo Green in the movie "The Twilight Saga: Eclipse."

Balderson's interest in filmmaking and compositionally creative art forms began when he was a child and was instigated by his grandfather.

"He wasn't a professional, but he was always taking pictures and always had a camera around his neck," Balderson said.

His grandfather provided him with his first video camera around the age of 8, and Balderson has never looked back. During his time at Manhattan High School, he discovered that videography and filmmaking were what he wanted to do because he could "literally not do

anything else." Three-and-a-half years of study later, Balderson's life hit a milestone. In 1996, he wrote the manuscript for his first film, "Pep Squad," in three days and packed his bags and moved from California without telling

Once back in Kansas, he put together a business plan, found investors, then went out and made his first movie - which had a budget of \$500,000.

"I learned a lot [at school], but they can't teach you how to make a good movie," he said. "It's a lot of trial and error and it's an innate thing."

After 10 years of working in the movie business, Balderson is still perfectly content to call a small town in the middle of Kansas his home. He said he sees no need to move to a larger city or one closer to the industry epicenters.

"I can be at the Manhattan airport in 30 minutes, then in Chicago or Dallas in two hours, and then New York or LA in three or four," he said. "Why would I need to live anywhere else?"

Kleiner called Balderson's location residence weird," but also said that everyone needs to do what works for them in their career, and Balderson is doing what works for him. A list and synopsis of Balder-

son's films can be found at dikenga.com. His next project is set to begin filming in April are all important.

### 10 lessons learned this semester

Here are the top 10 things that we learned at the Collegian this semester.

**1.** Every person has a unicorn. We are creatures of creepiness, and the fact that everyone has a secret, lurking love for someone else should have people looking over their shoulders during class.

**2.** Taking pictures of things you've never seen before makes for an interesting and educational experi-

**3.** Whether they're for or against it, students on the K-State campus have very strong feelings about environmentalism, and they all want to share their

**4.** No matter how big or small the story turns out to be, they

sentiments.

**5.** Decision-making is never easy, but sometimes those onthe-spot decisions are exactly what needs to be done.

**6.** Zombies, if used cleverly and cautiously, can be used to gather canned food donations for the Flint Hills Breadbasket.

7. EcoKat has been a great scapegoat and the butt of many jokes.

**8.** In this industry, you have to be on your A game and take advantage when the opportunity arises.

**9.** No one will ever win the EMAW/EPAW argument.

**10.** Working as a team sometimes requires biting your tongue and hugging it out, but at the end of the day, we're all one big, happy, crazy family.

## K-State First helps first-year students succeed academically, personally

**Darrington Clark** 

With the semester quickly coming to a close, the K-State First Guide to Personal Success Program celebrated with a final gathering on Tuesday.

The K-State First program is a collection of organizations and activities designed to help freshmen acclimate to college life and ensure success as a first-year K-State student. GPS had their final group "connection" of this semester Tuesday, enjoying a night of music with the K-State Orchestra concert at McCain Auditorium.

"K-State First is essentially a first-year experience program," said Gregory Eiselein, professor of English and faculty director of K-State First. "There are four programs that fall under the K-State First umbrella. There is First Year Seminar, CAT, or Connecting Across Topics, KSBN, or K-State Book Network, and GPS, where we are tonight."

K-State First programs may be familiar to many, if not all, first-year students. KSBN is the program that sponsored "Zeitoun," the book by Dave Eggers that each freshman received to read at the beginning of the school year.

First Year Seminar is a class freshmen are eligible to take to assist with K-State acclimation and activities, and CAT is a sign-up program that allows students to come together and speak about topics that inter-

The GPS program is also a sign-up activity and has had significant success, according to Laura Foote, GPS assistant coordinator.

"Guide to Personal Success is a free mentoring program," Foote said. "We match a firstyear student with a teacher, member or faculty, or a recent alum from K-State. We ask them to meet up with each other at least three times over the fall and spring semesters and call them 'connections."

Students and partner fac-

ulty members can choose to meet whenever they like, but Foote also organizes group connections that multiple pairs can attend, such as the orchestra concert Tuesday.

> "I love to be a resource to them, and to help."

**Danielle Young** assistant coordinator of new student services

The group connections often have themes, and since this meeting's theme was music, Gary Mortenson, head of the department of music, gave the group a speech about music appreciation and concert eti-

"We know people's schedules are very busy, so we leave it up to them to meet when they choose," Foote said.

"They also decide what they would like to do. Some go out for coffee, or dinner, whatever. We've even had a pair who has met 15 times this semester."

The connection meetings offer the first-year students and their mentor a time to talk about the college experience, and gives an opportunity for students to ask questions and explore more knowledge about the university in a comfortable and relaxed setting.

Kimberly Gerstner, freshman in microbiology, and her mentor Danielle Young, assistant coordinator of new student services, credit the GPS program as a powerful and helpful experience.
"I knew as a freshman

that I needed to meet people right off the bat," Gerstner said. "GPS helped me to make friends, plus I get to meet with faculty and get help when I need it. I like the personal time that I can get with Danielle, too."
"I just like being able to

connect with students like

Kimberly," Young said. "I love to be a resource to them, and to help."

Resources are another strong point of the K-State First program.

"Our mentors are helpful to all students," Foote said. "For those students who are struggling a bit in school, their mentors can be a resource. For those students who are excelling, their mentors can be references. They can help write recommendation letters or secure internships."

Although the GPS program has not been in existence for long, the feedback coming toward the directors has been positive.

"This is an annual program, and we started in 2010. I know that it's going very well," Eiselein said.

Foote agrees that the program is thriving, and that it's

time for GPS to grow.
"We currently have 300 students in our program," Foote said. "Originally, GPS has been a fall semester only

program, but I've decided to extend that to a whole year, giving more time for students and mentors to connect. We have 10 to 15 openings for

freshman students who want to join at semester, as well." K-State currently is the only university to use a "First" program in the state of Kansas, which, according to

Foote, makes it all that more

important. Nationally, the First program is nothing new," Foote said. "In the state of Kansas, however, we have the only one. It's so important to make sure our first-year students are succeeding and doing well, and we can do that here with a program that is accessible and

For more information about K-State First or GPS, or to express interest in joining the program for spring semester, contact Laura Foote at laurafoote@k-state.edu.

got memories?

we do.

### **BAND** | Students 'usually very surprised' to see professor play guitar

#### **Continued from page 1**

from every gig Blair has played with the band symbolizes the life that Blair loves to live.

"It's an honor to be chosen as a distinguished professor," Blair said, who earned the title in 2006. "Of course, it adds a bit onto my workload and pressure on me. Sometimes it feels like I might be doing too much, but I really love a job in academia and being around the youth."

Rintoul said Blair was everything a colleague should be.

'John is an immense contribution to our department," he said. "He's an excellent scientist, he's published quite a bit, and he's produced a fair number of graduate students."

Because the subject never comes up in his classes, many of his students have no idea that Blair even plays in a band. "Some students will stumble

upon us playing in Aggieville and they'll see me," Blair said. "They are usually very surprised, to say the least."

Although music and science have been the primary passions in Blair's life, they are certainly not the only ones. On top of everything else, he is also a runner.

"I started running at around the same time I picked up a

guitar. I just finished my first marathon in Kansas City not too long ago," he said.

Blair runs periodically with a group of professors on campus, but no matter how busy his schedule may be, working with the band is always important.

"We've had a very busy fall, playing at Oktoberfest and the Junction City Blues Fest, but right now we're slowing down a bit," he said. "We're all busy people, so scheduling rehearsals is hard, especially in the winter. Still, everyone in the group is very stable. I can't remember a single fight, actually."

The Red State Blues Band can even be enjoyed while driv-

"We have a CD already out, from before I joined the band, and we have another CD coming soon," Blair said.

The busy life of John Blair is one that gives him great joy, both musically and occupa-

"Teaching is great," Blair said. "It's kind of like being your own boss. I like to decide what I deem important to teach to students, and I like the freedom. I love being connected to music and playing guitar, in a great learning environment. I couldn't think of anything else I'd rather be doing.'

### **CELTIC** | Singers indulge appreciative crowd with two encore carols

#### Continued from page 1

other genres in their shows.

At the end of the show, the Tenors were set to end the evening with "The Road That Will Take Me Home." In response to the standing ovation at the end, the group came back out and "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas." That, too, received a standing ovation from the McCain Auditorium crowd and the Tenors came back again and finished with "I'm Dreaming of A White Christmas."

After the show, the group met fans out in the lobby. When asked what number they themselves like performing the most, James Nelson said "Nessum Dorma" by Puccini was his favorite.

"It is really fun piece for tenors to perform," Nelson said. "In Latin, it means 'Nobody sleeps."

The Celtic Tenors' next show is in Lincoln, Nebraska, before returning to Kansas with shows in Lawrence and Salina. For more information about the Celtic Tenors, visit their Facebook page or celtic-tenors.com.

Letter to the editor...



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## **CADENCE** | Entertainment value key for a capella group

#### Continued from page 1

finance. "We want to shock the audience by performing well and telling them that none of us are planning on doing this professionally."

The executive branch of Cadence consists of three members. As the music manager, Witter picks music and sets gigs, and makes sure the accompanist knows the songs and speaks with the students who arrange their acapella

Ryan Wofford, junior in architectural engineering, is the business manager. He sends out email inquiries about the group and assists with the group's philanthropic needs.

As president, Nelson oversees both Witter and Wofford to make sure everything runs smoothly and goes as well as it can for the audience they are perform-

"Most of our gigs, we stand in a 'U' formation," Nelson said. "That is just how we have to stand to be accommodating to the tables and chairs that are at the venue. But when we have a stage, we are able to have choreography and have fun. We are a lot better with entertaining when we have a full stage? Witter said Cadence makes enough

all of their traveling expenses as well as sheet music. The group even records its "We don't make a ton of money," Witter said. "But we also don't use a lot

money from their shows to travel out of

state to compete. They are able to pay for

of money." So far, the only competition the group has competed at has been in Denver. Nelson said that competitions for acapella groups are few and far between. Cadence competed against 11



Missy Calvert | Collegian

Cory Hendrickson (right), senior in political science, practices a solo while other members provide back-up at a Cadence rehearsal Tuesday in a classroom in McCain Auditorium. The members of Cadence, an all-male a cappella group, will perform a Winter Concert on Friday and Saturday at 7:30pm in the K-State Student Union's Forum Hall.

other acapella groups but did not finish in the top three.

"We were there for the entertain-ment," Nelson said. "Many of these other groups are through formal choral departments and they are technically taught. We travel and we have fun."

The entertainment value is key for Cadence members. They strive to continue improving their shows from the previous performance. Their goal is to make sure the audience is entertained while they are there and speak about them after they leave.

"Our group differs from others because we like to have fun," Gonzolas said. "Just the aspect of having fun makes us want to work even harder. We want to entertain people and that also makes us want to continue to work harder and continue to be better.'

Amanda Theresa Lynn, of the 4600 block of Eureka Drive, was booked for disorderly conduct, obstruction of the legal process, criminal damage to property and criminal trespassing. Bond was set at \$1,500.

THE BLOTTER

ARREST REPORTS

Kawon Darmel Higgins,

of the 500 block of Fremont

Street, was booked for violation of a protection order.

Lacey Ann Crawford, of the 2000 block of Shirley

Lane, was booked for domes-

tic battery. Bond was set at

Dennis Wayne Leonard,

Glenn Wilbur Bennett,

of the 1900 block of Hayes

Drive, was booked for failure to appear. Bond was set

of Emmett, Kan., was booked

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**WEDNESDAY** 

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**TUESDAY** 

#### Compiled by Sarah Rajewski



### TO THE POINT

### Collegian editorial board members recognized for hard work, dedication

To the point is an editorial selected and debated by the editorial board and written after a majority opinion is formed. This is the Collegian's official opinon.

The Collegian is full of hardworking students — students who often get up early and stay up late to make sure the newspaper that readers pick up in the morning is a

product they'll enjoy.

Two members of the Collegian's editorial board have been recognized for their writing abilities, exceptional work ethics and work at the collegiate journalism level.

Kelsey Castanon, our edge editor, won fourth place in the Hearst Journalism Awards Program and a \$1,000 scholarship in the feature writing section. Castanon submitted her personal article, "Father, daughter relationship tested after his confession: 'I'm gay," to the contest. The article focused on the relationship between Castanon and her father. It was published in the Collegian on Oct. 14. Castanon's piece was in competition with 134 others submissions, which a entered from 73 other universities throughout the United States.

Mark Kern, our sports editor, was recently awarded

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40 cent wings \$2 Shots

\$3.50 Dom Pitchers

Tuesday

\$3 Big Boy Wells

40 cent wings **BOGO Hot Dogs** 

Trivia at 9

an internship in Charlotte, N.C. He will be working as an online beat writer for the Charlotte Bobcats. Kern submitted his resume and clips to the organization and will begin work on Dec. 26. Kern's living expenses will be covered, and he will be moving to North Carolina for the duration of the NBA season, or longer, depending on the season outcome of the Bobcats.

The Collegian wanted to take a chance to congratulate our two members on their hard work and dedication.

## K-State daily briefs

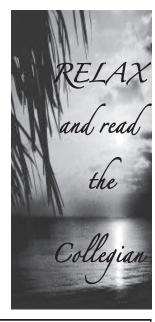
Karen Ingram

More than 50 students will be graduating from K-State-Salina on Friday, Dec. 9. Commencement ceremonies will take place at 7 p.m. in the Student Life Center. Jennifer Johnson, executive vice president of Sunflower Bank, will be the commencement speaker. A live webcast of the ceremonies will be available at kstate.edu/graduation.

The Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps will commission eight cadets as second lieutenants on Dec. 9. The commissioning ceremony will begin at 2 p.m. in the K-State Student Union's Forum Hall. Five of the Air Force ROTC cadets will begin aviation training in Florida

next year while the other three will begin career fields in cyberspace, special investigations and airfield operations. Retired Lt. Col. Bradley L. Hebing, U.S. Air Force, will be a guest speaker at the ceremony.

The Manhattan Arts Center will be presenting a musical performance of Charles Dickens' classic "A Christmas Carol" on Dec. 9 and 10 at 7 p.m. and on Dec. 11 at 2 p.m. The play was adapted for a musical performance by Sally Bailey, professor of communication studies, theatre and dance and will be performed by local students in grades three through eight. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children age 12 and under. To purchase tickets, or for more information, call the center at 785-537-4420 or visit manhattanarts.org.







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#### 18+ to Enter, NO COVER

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Over 1800+ Glow Sticks, Glasses and Braclets 100 Free Shirts at 12am 75 cent Tacos

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- \$1 Wells
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